



The Reverend Michael (Mike) Croft

Michael (who is also known as Mike) is a Yorkshireman, who is happily moving over the border into Lincolnshire, along with his partner Chris (who is occasionally known as Christine) and their big black collie, Buddy the Elf. Mike & Chris have grown up children living in Manchester and just north of London. They are looking forward to moving to Louth as Mike takes up the role of interim Priest-in-Charge in Louth.

Mike brings to the role experience of stipendiary ministry in Hull and in Wakefield where he was involved in initiating and leading what are sometimes referred to as 'mixed ecologies' of church growth and community engagement. Mike moved on to lead a research consultancy whilst being a minister in secular employment researching new approaches to developing people and organisations, all the while continuing to support ministry in parishes and beyond.

Describing himself as 'a parson at heart', Mike is looking forward to returning to parish ministry in Louth. With his stipendiary and secular background, he has a particular interest in the life and development of communities, their life and history.

The saying, 'preach the Gospel at all times and use words if you have to', runs through Mike's understanding of mission like the word Blackpool in a stick of rock. Committed to maintaining a mission focus, Mike's desire is to work with the church demonstrating what he describes as 'good society' in the midst of communities.

Mike, along with Chris and Buddy the Elf, very much look forward to getting to know the people of Louth and the surrounding communities in the marketplace, churches, and communities and over coffee and the occasional pint in order to contribute to developing a relevant, vibrant, healthy, and sustainable mission-focused Church.